



Adam Toth:  
Aruba is to  
me... not to  
be taken for  
granted by  
its people OR  
visitors

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Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

## New Week, New Adventure!



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### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm	MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	RICKY THOMAS GUITARIST 7:00 - 9:00pm	EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

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# Schumer says he won't step down as Senate Democratic leader despite government funding uproar

By **WILL WEISSERT**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer says he won't resign his post, despite pressure from some in his party after he voted to move forward with a Republican spending bill that avoided a government shutdown.

"Look, I'm not stepping down," Schumer said in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" that aired Sunday. The New York senator said he knew voting for the bill backed by Republican President Donald Trump would spark "a lot of controversy." "I did it out of pure conviction as to what a leader should do and what the right thing for America and my party was," he said. "People dis-



**Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer gives a television interview at the Capitol in Washington, Friday, March 14, 2025.**

**Associated Press**

agree." Democrats last week were confronted with two painful options: allowing passage of a bill they believe gave Trump vast discretion on spending decisions or letting

funding lapse. After Schumer said he'd vote to advance the spending measure, 10 Democrats supported breaking the party's filibuster and allowing the bill to pass. Schumer's move has sparked

outrage from some Democrats and progressive activists who protested at his office and called on him to resign his position. They said they'd like to see him face a primary challenge — perhaps from New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. The uproar prompted Schumer last week to postpone his book tour amid a series of planned progressive demonstrations.

Schumer isn't up for re-election until 2028. He told NBC that the spending bill that funds the government through September was "certainly bad."

But he argued that not voting to provide the funding would have been "15 or 20 times worse." He called his action "a vote of principle," arguing that "sometimes when you're a leader, you have to do things to avoid a real danger that might come down the curve."

In an interview that also aired Sunday on ABC's "This Week," Vermont Democratic

Sen. Bernie Sanders criticized Schumer and other members of Democratic Senate leadership. But he abruptly ended the interview when asked about Ocasio-Cortez potentially being elected to the Senate. Another outspoken progressive, Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., said on CNN's "State of the Union" that "There is no doubt that there is anger there, and people were very, very disappointed in the Senate."

Khanna said the anger stemmed from Senate Democrats not seeking concessions for their support of the GOP-backed spending package — including possible limits on government spending and job cutting efforts being led on Trump's behalf by billionaire Elon Musk.

Asked if he'd support Ocasio-Cortez challenging Schumer during a 2028 Democratic Senate primary in New York, Khanna said the decision to run was up to the congresswoman. □



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## Education secretary says Columbia University's changes put it on track to recover funding

**NEW YORK (AP)** — U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon said Columbia University is "on the right track" toward recovering federal funding after the elite New York City university agreed to implement a host of policy changes demanded by the Trump administration.

Appearing on CNN's "State of the Union" Sunday, McMahon described "great conversations" with Columbia's interim president, Katrina Armstrong. "She said she knew that this was her responsibility to make sure that children on her campus were safe," McMahon said. "She wanted to make sure there was no discrimination of any kind. She wanted to address any systemic issues that were identified relative to the antisemitism on campus."

Armstrong announced Friday that the university would put its Middle East studies department under new supervision and overhaul its rules for pro-

tests and student discipline. It also agreed to adopt a new definition of antisemitism and expand "intellectual diversity" by staffing up its Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, according to an outline posted on its website.

Earlier this month, the Trump administration pulled \$400 million in research grants and other funding over how the university handled protests against Israel's military campaign in Gaza. In order to consider restoring those funds and billions more in future grants, federal officials demanded nine separate changes to the university's academic and security policies. Armstrong's decision acceding to the administration's demands drew condemnation from some faculty and free speech groups, who accused the university of caving to President Donald Trump's largely unprecedented intrusion on academic freedom. □



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## America's European allies are trying to pry their unspent money back from USAID

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER,  
JAMEY KEATEN, MIKE CORDER  
AND VANESSA GERA  
Associated Press

Three European allies provided millions of dollars that the United States was supposed to spend for low-income countries. Then the Trump administration and Elon Musk's government-cutters arrived.

Government officials from Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands told The Associated Press that a combined \$15 million they contributed for joint development work overseas has been parked at the U.S. Agency for International Development for months.

After the Republican administration and Musk's Department of Government Efficiency cut USAID's funding and the bulk of its programs, the Europeans asked whether their money would be funneled to projects as expected or refunded. They have gotten no response.

"It's a concern for us, especially as we want our partner organizations to be compensated for the work they have put into the programs," said Julia Lindholm, a spokeswoman for the Swedish government's international development agency.

The true total may be larger. Other foreign governments also had money entrusted with USAID for distribution in a range of joint development projects at the time President Donald Trump ordered the funding freeze on Jan. 20, according to an official directly familiar with the matter who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The worries point to the extent to which the new administration's abrupt cutoff of foreign assistance and



Supporters cheer the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) workers, as they carry their personal belongings after retrieving them from the USAID's headquarters in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025.

canceling of contracts for humanitarian and development work are raising questions about Washington's financial reliability. They also show further strain between allies as Trump revamps American foreign policy.

The State Department and USAID did not immediately respond to questions asking how many foreign governments had money for joint development programs going unspent and unrefunded in the USAID funding freeze, how much money that was in total, and whether the administration was doing anything about it.

Concerns from American allies

Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands had been partnering with USAID on a project called Water and Energy for Food, or WE4F. It helps farmers and others in poorer countries develop innovative ways to grow more food without straining water supplies or depending on climate-damaging forms of energy.

"Most importantly," Lindholm said by email, the U.S. failure

so far to disburse or refund allies' donations is harming "6 million of the poorest and most vulnerable farmers in the world who are dependent on the technologies for their food production and food security."

Other administration actions already have alarmed traditional partners. Trump has said he would not necessarily follow the mutual-defense pact underlying the NATO security agreement, he has advanced some of Russia's talking points and demands in its invasion of Ukraine and has imposed tariffs on Canada, the European Union and others.

America as a reliable financial partner

Now, doubts about the U.S. as a reliable business partner have emerged in lawsuits over the administration's abrupt cancellation of what Secretary of State Marco Rubio said were 83% of USAID contracts, forcing partner organizations to lay off workers and driving some out of business.

In a brief supporting a lawsuit from federal workers, former

Defense Secretaries Chuck Hagel and William Perry, former CIA Director Michael Hayden and more than a dozen other former senior U.S. officials said the administration's mass canceling of thousands of USAID contracts was flouting U.S. financial regulations and "destroying the United States' credibility as a reliable partner."

Canceling the contracts "sends a message that this administration does not feel bound by those regulations — regulations on which every business that works with the United States relies," the former officials said.

In another case, lawyers for nonprofits and businesses seeking payment from USAID told a judge that because of the financial chaos surrounding the agency's dismantling, banks have stopped what used to be routine financing for USAID partners based on their contracts with the U.S. agency.

Since the Cold War, the national security argument for development programs has been that making poorer countries more prosperous

and stable lessens refugee flows and conflicts.

Trump and Musk call foreign assistance through USAID in particular a fraud and scam. Administration officials are looking at focusing U.S. development efforts much more narrowly on combating China's influence abroad and boosting U.S. trade and business opportunities.

Seeking money back from the Trump administration

Growing steadily more alarmed by the administration's foreign aid moves, Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands initially sent USAID emails inquiring about the money they had parked in USAID accounts.

Frustrated at getting no response, two of them warned in the government-to-government emails that they were looking at talking to local media about their missing money, according to the official directly familiar with the matter.

Under court order, the administration has started making good on some \$2 billion USAID already owed when Trump ordered the freeze in USAID and State Department foreign assistance on Inauguration Day.

But forced leaves and firings have yanked most officials and workers at USAID's headquarters off the job. That includes many who oversaw development programs and would be involved in tracking down numbers and calculating any refunds for the foreign governments.

Sweden's development agency told the AP that it estimates it has \$12 million total, including \$5.1 million for WE4F, sitting in USAID accounts — money going unspent for people in Africa, Asia and the Middle East and unrefunded by the administration. □



# Wildfires prompt evacuation in the Carolinas as New Jersey crews battle their own blaze

**By The Associated Press**

Wildfires forced a mandatory evacuation Sunday in a North Carolina county still recovering from

Hurricane Helene, and South Carolina's governor declared an emergency in response to a growing wildfire in that state. Hundreds of miles north, the New Jersey Forest Fire Service was battling a blaze in the Wharton State Forest.

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety announced a mandatory evacuation starting at 8:20 p.m. Saturday for parts of Polk County in western North Carolina about 80 miles (129 kilometers) west of Charlotte. "Visibility in area will be reduced and roads/evacuation routes can become blocked; if you do not leave now, you could be trapped, injured, or killed," the agency said in a social media post. A shelter had been established in Columbus, North Carolina.

There were three active fires in Polk County, with one spanning 1.9 square miles (5 square kilometers) and another spread over 2.8 square miles (7.3 square kilometers) with no containment by Sunday afternoon. County spokesperson Kellie



**A firefighter looks on as the California Branch wildfire burns Saturday, March 22, 2025 in New Jersey's Wharton State Forest.**

**Associated Press**

Cannon said one home was lost to the larger of the two fires.

A third fire that had burned about 199 acres (81 hectares) with 50% containment had destroyed three homes. And earlier evacuation order associated with that fire had been lifted, Cannon said.

The North Carolina Forest Service's online wildfire public viewer indicated active fires Sunday in Burke County and in Stokes County on the northern border with Virginia.

In South Carolina, Gov. Henry McMaster declared a state of emergency Saturday as emergency crews in Pickens County fought the Table Rock Fire in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

"The State of Emergency allows us to mobilize resources quickly and ensure our firefighters have the support they need," McMaster said in a statement that reinforced a statewide outdoor burning ban issued Friday by the South Carolina Forestry

Commission.

Local fire officials called for voluntary evacuations Saturday of some residents near Table Rock Mountain, the forestry commission said in a social media post.

That human-caused fire grew to more than 300 acres (121 hectares) with no containment, the commission said Sunday. Spot fires ignited fresh flames outside of the original fire area and the steep terrain was making it hard for heavier equip-

ment used to contain fires to reach the area, officials said. Downed timber from Hurricane Helene was exacerbating the situation. Voluntary evacuations of approximately 100 residences remained in effect Sunday afternoon.

North Carolina's western region already had been hit hard by Hurricane Helene in September. The hurricane damaged or impacted 5,000 miles (8,046 kilometers) of state-maintained roads and damaged 7,000 private roads, bridges and culverts in North Carolina. Also this weekend, the New Jersey Forest Fire Service has been battling a wildfire that broke out in the Wharton State Forest on Saturday. The fire had consumed about 2.7 square miles (7 square kilometers) as of early Sunday morning and was about 50% contained, according to an 8 a.m. update on the service's Facebook page.

Emergency officials said they evacuated two campgrounds in the park. Eighteen buildings were near the fire, but the flames were moving away from them and no structures had been evacuated.

The cause of that fire was under investigation. □



**Las Cruces Police Chief Jeremy Story speaks at a news conference on March 22, 2025 a day after a mass shooting at Young Park in Las Cruces, N.M.**

**Associated Press**

**LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP)** — A 20-year-old man and two teens have been arrested on suspicion of murder in connection with Friday night's shooting at a park in Las Cruces, New Mexico, that left three people dead and 15 others hurt, authorities said Sunday.

Tomas Rivas and a 17-year-old male were taken into custody Saturday evening and a second 17-year-old male was arrested Sunday morning, according to a statement from the city of Las Cruces. Each could face a murder charge and additional charges were pend-

## Arrests in shooting that killed 3 and hurt 15 at a park in Las Cruces, New Mexico

ing, the statement said. It wasn't known Sunday if the defendants had attorneys. A message was sent to the public defender's office in Doña Ana County inquiring whether its attorneys were representing them.

Gunfire erupted shortly around 10 p.m. Friday at Young Park, where an altercation broke out after an unauthorized car show had drawn about 200 people to the park in the desert city, police said. Nine male and six female gunshot victims ranging in age from 16 to 36 were treated there or taken to hospitals.

Andrew Madrid, 16, and Jason Gomez, 18, died at the scene and Dominick Estrada, 19, died later at a hospital,

according to the city statement. Authorities were seeking video from the park and tips from those present as the investigation continued Sunday.

The police and fire departments, along with community groups, offered support for victims and their family members Sunday at the Las Cruces Convention Center. "Crisis counseling, spiritual counseling and connecting victims with local resources and financial assistance will be provided," the city statement said. "Anybody impacted by this tragedy is encouraged to attend."

Between 50 and 60 handgun casings were scattered across a wide swath of the park, Police Chief Jeremy

Story said Saturday, suggesting there were multiple shooters and multiple weapons.

Fire Chief Michael Daniels said 11 patients were sent to three local hospitals or the regional trauma center, University Medical Center of El Paso. As of Saturday, he said, seven victims were in El Paso, four had been treated and released and the conditions of the other four were not known.

Story acknowledged Saturday that illegal car shows at Young Park are not uncommon and that the police presence has been larger in the past. Understaffing on Friday, he said, meant he had "no units available for most of the night." □



# Canada's prime minister and his opponent kick off election saying Trump must respect sovereignty

By **ROB GILLIES**  
**Associated Press**

**TORONTO (AP)** — New Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and his Conservative opponent said U.S. President Donald Trump must respect Canada's sovereignty as they kicked off their election campaigns Sunday against the backdrop of a trade war and annexation threats from Trump.

Carney announced there will be a five-week election campaign before the vote on April 28.

"President Trump claims that Canada isn't a real country. He wants to break us so America can own us. We will not let that happen," Carney said.

The governing Liberals had appeared poised for a historic election defeat this year until Trump declared a trade war. Trump has repeatedly said that Canada should become the 51st U.S. state and he acknowledged Friday that he has upended Canadian politics. Trump's almost daily attacks on Canada's sovereignty have infuriated Canadians and led to a surge in Canadian nationalism that has bolstered Liberal poll numbers.

"We are facing the most significant crisis of our lifetimes because of President Trump's unjustified trade actions and his threats to sovereignty," Carney said.

The election campaign for



**Prime Minister Mark Carney holds a press conference following the First Ministers Meeting at the National War Museum on Friday, March 21, 2025.**

**Associated Press**

343 seats or districts in the House of Commons will last 37 days. Although other parties are running, the Liberals and the Conservatives are the only two that have a chance to form a government. The party that commands a majority in Parliament, either alone or with the support of another party, will form the next government and its leader will be prime minister.

Carney replaced Justin Trudeau, who announced his resignation in January but remained in power until the Liberal Party elected a new leader on March 9 fol-

lowing a leadership race by the governing party.

The opposition Conservatives hoped to make the election about Trudeau, whose popularity declined as food and housing prices rose and immigration surged. But after decades of bilateral stability, the vote is now expected to focus on who is best equipped to deal with Trump.

Carney said the choice for Canadians is a "Canadian Trump or a government that unites the country." He said "we have seen what negativity and division has led to in the United States."

Trump put 25% tariffs on Canada's steel and aluminum and is threatening sweeping tariffs on all Canadian products — as well as all of America's trading partners — on April 2.

Pierre Poilievre, the leader of the Conservatives, is Carney's main challenger. The party and Poilievre were heading for a huge victory in Canada's federal election this year until Trump's near-daily trade and annexation threats derailed them.

Poilievre said he will stand up to Trump but Alberta Premier Danielle Smith, a conservative ally, said in an interview

that Poilievre would be "very much in sync" with the "new direction in America."

"The content of this interview is very bad news for the Conservatives because it reinforces the Liberals' narrative about Pierre Poilievre and his perceived ideological proximity with Donald Trump," said Daniel Béland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal. Poilievre said he doesn't respect how Trump has treated Canada.

"I will insist the president recognizes the independence and sovereignty of Canada. I will insist he stops tariffing our nation," Poilievre said as he launched his campaign. "I know a lot of people are worried, angry and anxious. And with good reason as a result of the president's unacceptable threats against our country."

Carney still hasn't had a phone call with Trump and that might not happen now until after the election. Trump mocked Trudeau by calling him governor, but he has not yet mentioned Carney's name.

Carney said there are certain conditions for a discussion with Trump.

"Mr. Trump must recognize that Canada is a sovereign country. He has to say that, he has to accept that, before we can have a discussion about a trade agreement," he said. □

## Iceland's minister for children quits after admitting she had a baby with a teenager 30 years ago

**LONDON (AP)** — Iceland's president on Sunday accepted the resignation of the North Atlantic island nation's children's minister, who quit the government over a relationship she had with a teenager more than three decades ago.

Ásthildur Lóa Thórsdóttir stepped down after national broadcaster RUV revealed last week that she had a child 35 years ago when she was 23 and the baby's father was 16. RUV said the

relationship began after the pair met at a church youth group when the teen was 15. Iceland's age of sexual consent is 15, but it is an offense for an adult to have sex with a teenager they teach, employ or mentor.

Thórsdóttir confirmed the relationship in a statement, saying she was not a leader of the church group, just a member, and that "relationships between people of that age were not at all uncommon, even if they were not

desirable."

She said the relationship lasted only a few weeks, though the father was present at the child's birth.

RUV reported that the father sought access to the couple's son through the government and church, but was granted only occasional visits, though he paid child support for 18 years.

Thórsdóttir, who said the father had made little attempt to establish a relationship with his son, officially stepped



**The Icelandic parliament building in Reykjavik pictured on Wednesday Jan. 28 2009.**

**Associated Press**

down at a meeting Sunday of the State Council, involving government ministers and President Halla Tómasdóttir.

Although she has left the government, she remains a lawmaker for the People's Party, which is part of a coalition government led by

Prime Minister Kristrún Frostadóttir of the Social Democratic Alliance.

Iceland is a volcanic island nation tucked below the Arctic Circle with a population of less than 400,000. Its parliament, founded in 930 by Viking settlers, is arguably the world's oldest legislature. □



# China's premier says U.S. relations at 'an important juncture' during meeting with pro-Trump senator

**BEIJING (AP)** — China's Premier Li Qiang said Sunday that Beijing and Washington should choose dialogue instead of confrontation, as the two countries are locked in rising friction over trade tariffs and efforts to combat illegal fentanyl trade.

Li was speaking during a meeting with U.S. Senator Steve Daines, a strong supporter of President Donald Trump, who is the first member of Congress to visit Beijing since Trump took office in January. The meeting also involved the leaders of several American businesses, including FedEx Corp. CEO Raj Subramaniam, Boeing Co.'s senior vice president Brendan Nelson, Qualcomm's CEO Cristiano Amon and Pfizer's CEO Albert Bourla.

Li said relations between the countries "have come to an important juncture" and Chinese President Xi Jinping noted the two countries could become partners and friends that contribute to each other's success during a call with Trump in January. "Our two sides need to choose dialogue over confrontation, win-win cooperation over zero-sum competition," he said.

China hoped that the U.S. would work together to promote the steady and sustainable development of the China-U.S. relations, he



**Chinese Premier Li Qiang, right, greets U.S. Senator Steve Daines before a meeting in the Fujian Room at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, Sunday, March 23, 2025.**

**Associated Press**

added. China's official Xinhua news agency reported Li also said there's no winner in a trade war. He said China welcomes foreign companies, including those from the U.S., to share development opportunities in the country. It will work to resolve reasonable demands of businesses and treat domestic and foreign firms equally, the report quoted him saying.

During the first Trump administration, Daines served as a go-between when tariffs were also a major issue. Ahead of the trip to China,

his office said he is coordinating closely with the White House and will be "carrying President Trump's America First agenda."

Since he arrived in the Chinese capital on Thursday, he has talked with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng to voice Trump's ongoing call for Beijing to stop the flow of fentanyl precursors from China. Additionally, he met with Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu. Just months into Trump's second term, relations between the world's two largest economies have

deteriorated. Washington slapped 20% tariffs on Chinese imports, with Beijing hitting back with 15% duties on U.S. farm goods.

Trump is planning to impose "reciprocal" tariffs by increasing U.S. duties to match the tax rates that other countries charge on imports "for purposes of fairness." These reciprocal tariffs are expected to be announced on April 2. Earlier Sunday, Li said at the China Development Forum that his country may see unexpected shocks, mainly from external factors. He

said the government, when necessary, will introduce new policies to ensure the local economy runs smoothly. The forum is a government-sponsored event that invites senior officials and business leaders, including top executives from outside China.

Facing rising economic fragmentation and instability, Li said it has become even more crucial for every country to open up its markets, calling for entrepreneurs to help maintain economic globalization proactively.

"We are not against competition, but we should advocate for fair competition under internationally recognized rules, rather than zero-sum games or deliberate suppression of vicious competition by other countries," he said. The U.S. has also criticized China for not doing enough to stop the export of precursor materials for fentanyl, a highly potent opiate blamed for tens of thousands of deaths in the U.S.

Beijing responded with a report detailing its efforts to control the illegal trade in fentanyl, specifically the ingredients for the opioid that are made in China. The report said China is committed to cooperation but opposes the U.S. imposition of unreasonable pressure on China on the pretext of responding to fentanyl-related issues. □



**Venezuelan migrants deported from the United States deplane at the Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetia, Venezuela, Feb. 20, 2025.**

**Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** — Venezuela will once again accept repatriation flights from the United States carrying its deported nationals after reaching an agreement with the U.S., a Venezuelan

official said on social media Saturday.

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro suspended flights on March 8, after the U.S. Treasury Department announced the withdrawal of

## Venezuela to resume repatriation of migrants after deal with U.S., official says

Chevron's license to export Venezuelan oil.

"We have agreed with the U.S. government to resume the repatriation of Venezuelan migrants with an initial flight tomorrow, Sunday," said Jorge Rodríguez, president of Venezuela's Assembly and Maduro's chief negotiator with the U.S.

Venezuela accepted the deal to guarantee the "the return of our compatriots to their nation with the safeguard of their Human Rights," Rodríguez said.

In his statement, Rodríguez referred to the deportation by Donald Trump's government of some 250 Venezu-

elans to a high-security prison in El Salvador.

"Migrating is not a crime and we will not rest until we achieve the return of all those who require it and until we rescue our brothers kidnapped in El Salvador," Rodríguez said.

Maduro ratified the measure during a public event later in the day. "We are resuming flights to rescue and release migrants from U.S. prisons," Maduro said.

The Venezuelan leader also said that he held the president of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele, responsible for the well-being of the Venezuelans deported to

that country. "You guarantee their health and, sooner rather than later, you have to hand them over and release them, because they are kidnapped," Maduro said.

Trump alleged the deportees were members of the Tren de Aragua gang. He labeled the Tren de Aragua an invading force on March 15 when he invoked the Alien Enemies Act, a little-used authority from 1798 that allows the president to deport any non-citizen during wartime. A federal judge issued an order temporarily barring the deportations, but flights were in the air when the ruling came down. □



## New Week, New Adventure!

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

### Nature Calls



The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website [www.arubanationalpark.org](http://www.arubanationalpark.org)

### Philip's Animal Garden

To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not



talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: [www.philipsanimalgarden.com](http://www.philipsanimalgarden.com).

### The Lighthouse



No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse

is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. [www.arubalighthouse.com](http://www.arubalighthouse.com) will give you more information.

### Kayak in the Mangroves



Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-

you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.

### Take an "off-road" sightseeing tour

A must-do activity on the island is for sure taking an off-road sightseeing tour. If you have a rented car, you can drive through the north-eastern side of Aruba and explore the natural pools, caves, rock formations and gorgeous view of the Atlantic Ocean. To access most of these sights, like the natural pool (Conchi) and the Guadirikiri and Fontein caves, you must enter through the Arikok National Park and buy a day pass. Then you drive up the rugged road that leads you through the white dunes, caves and along the wind turbines. Other locations, like the Ayo and Casibari Rock formation are situated more in the center of the island, and are free for guests, 24



hours a day.

### Go for a shopping spree in the city center

Need a new bathing suit? Head to the city center of Oranjestad, where there is countless of different stores—both high end and more affordable—that can offer you the service you deserve! Local shopping stores often offer a more affordable price, and have a variety of clothes, shoes, bathing suites, purses and more. Along the Royal Plaza strip, there are numerous jewelry stores with great quality jewelry. In the Renaissance mall, you can shop high-end luxury brands, like Dolce & Gabbana, Kate Spade, Louis Vuitton and more.

Around the high-rise hotel area near Palm Beach, the Paseo Herencia Mall contain a variety of shopping stores, restaurants, small food stands and even a movie theater! □

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## Fred de Jong presents the Aruba Frank Sinatra Show live at The Cinemas

(Oranjestad)—Take advantage of your chance to lounge back and delight in the memorable melodies of one of the greatest entertainers of all time, Frank Sinatra. Join fellow Sinatra fans

for a charming evening of music and entertainment LIVE at The Cinemas!

Presented by tribute artist Fred de Jong, enjoy



his beautiful rendition of some of Sinatra's best hits, including fan favorites from the legend like "Fly Me To The Moon", "My Way", "New York – New York" and more! Sing along to some of Sinatra's rendition of classic Christmas songs and take in the experience in The Cinemas VIP lounging theater for only \$40 per person.

De Jong invites you to be a part of a classy, beautiful evening of jazzy swing classics each Thursday from 7:30 PM to 9PM at The Cinemas in Paseo Herencia. Seating is limited.

Book your seat now at [arubasinatra.com/book](http://arubasinatra.com/book). Food and drink not included. ☐

## A quick snack for the road: Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

### Ingredients:

4 cups of wheat flour  
1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)  
1 tsp salt  
1 tbsp sugar  
0.5 cup of melted butter  
1 cup water  
1 egg

### Directions:

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the bowl you are using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll

know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around 1/4 inch or so.



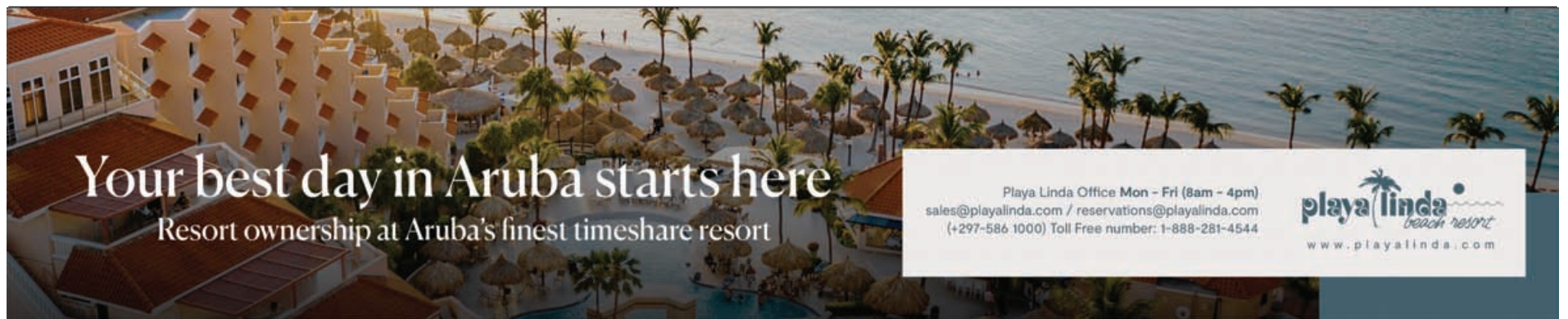
Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the pastry.

Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free to use it for this process. Your pastechi is ready for the fryer!

If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few. ☐





## Playa Linda career accomplishments and well-deserved retirements

**PALM BEACH** - The quality standards and family atmosphere for which the Playa Linda Beach Resort is well known results from the example set by long-time employees, such as Felicita Cuesta, Marlyn Tromp and Ciro Pimentel, who, after decades on the job, are now enjoying well-deserved retirements. Separate events were held to honor each of these exceptional employees, with Playa Linda Beach Resort executive staff and fellow colleagues expressing appreciation for the level of their dedication as well as each one's individual contributions that led to Playa Linda's success in different ways.

Felicita Cuesta retired earlier this year after dedicating 22 years working within Playa Linda's stellar Housekeeping Department. Fellow



housekeepers responded by hosting a memorable send-off, throwing a retirement party marked by shared stories and their trademark high spirits.

Marlyn Tromp similarly received a festive retirement party after completing an impressive 36 years at the Playa Linda in its Accounting Department. Marylyn's career grew with the Playa Linda, and she met the growing demands of the department with aplomb as the popular timeshare flourished and grew in size and membership. Throughout the years, she helped juggle the tracking of financials through numerous new projects, refurbishments and upgrades.

And just recently, Playa Linda provided a warm celebration to mark

the retirement of Ciro Pimentel, who retired after 33 years. His tenure in the IT Department was marked by tremendous change over the years, with the implementation of new programs, cybersecurity efforts and technological updates, to which he applied his ready knowledge to new challenges.

The talents that Felicita, Marlyn and Ciro brought to the table and the knowledge and friendships they shared with fellow colleagues has proven invaluable. Close-knit Playa Linda family ties among all employees resulted in fond farewells and best wishes for tranquil, well-deserved retirements.

Playa Linda Beach Resort Aruba sits beachside on world famous Palm

Beach, and at the center of the island's best selection of dining, shopping and activity options. It features 217 spacious suites – with twelve different suite categories, each with fully-equipped kitchens – and offers resort amenities including on-property laundry facilities, two pools, two Jacuzzis, concierge services, daily activity program and varied dining and shopping options. This intimate, community-centered resort creates an opportunity for memorable vacation experiences and is why your best day in Aruba starts at the Playa Linda. □



## Aruba Tourism Authority Celebrates Loyal Visitor!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently honored young Austin Atlee from Winnebago, Illinois, for his years of visiting Aruba! Since Austin was a baby, he and his family have been visiting Aruba consecutive. Austin received a certificate and some presents in recognition of his loyalty and love for the island.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively. Austin is now a Distinguished Visitor with over 10 years of visits! Austin loves Aruba for its beautiful beaches, friendly people, sunny weather, and the fact that it's a family tradition. A big "Masha Danki" to Austin and his family for making Aruba their favorite getaway! □





## The Lionfish And its threat to our marine wild life

**(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.**

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pa-

cific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny



fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discov-

ered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. Van Brakel not only catches them himself, but also cooks them for locals and tourists at The LionFish Snack Aruba in Paradera. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life. □



**ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation

memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out

## Aruba to me

our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from Adam Toth.

He wrote to us saying: "Aruba is to me... Not to be taken for granted by its people OR visitors. At first judgement years ago upon my grandparents longtime love for the island and pleads for my family of wife and then young daughter to join them for time away on Aruba was "where the heck is Aruba and what's so great about it?". I had been to other areas of the Caribbean and been quick to judge Aruba as a stereotypical tourist destination of commercialized same old. But to my absolute "hot de-

light" Aruba is so much more than a destination. The island is so much more than what we Americans are too quick to judge and assume. Its people, and own cultural identity are as warm as its weather. Its natural beauty has stand out allure that is unmatched in the world. So what I mean by not to be taken for granted is that one time visitors or welcome home visitors should not lose sight of how special Aruba really is. Clean up after yourselves, pick up your trash and cigarette butts on the beaches, be kind and patient to the people of this place, they have lives just like you and remember that we are all in this time and place together. we are guests at their home and the respect should be of utmost importance. And to the great warm people of Aruba,

don't let the grind of taking care of us get to you. I recently experienced a small van/bus ride that my family and off shift locals were on from palm beach back to low rise after dinner and could not help but notice the daily grind of exhaustion in your eyes. I know too well how this feels like every day is Groundhog Day and how some guests may be challenging but please don't judge all based on the few baddies. And don't take for granted your beauty, kindness and duty you've shown on how special this place truly is and how I hope to not ever change but continue to thrive. I love you Aruba! Masha Danki!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



## Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

### Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean gen-

eralizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo' stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator' in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

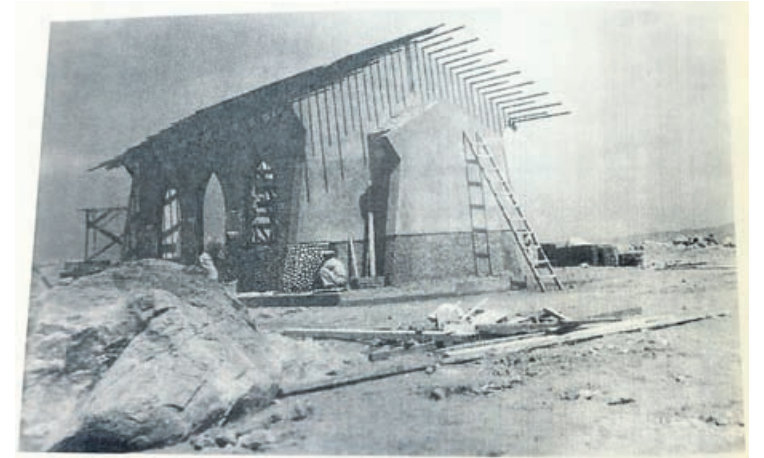
At Ayo, you can find some of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all about its location and history.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

### Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a



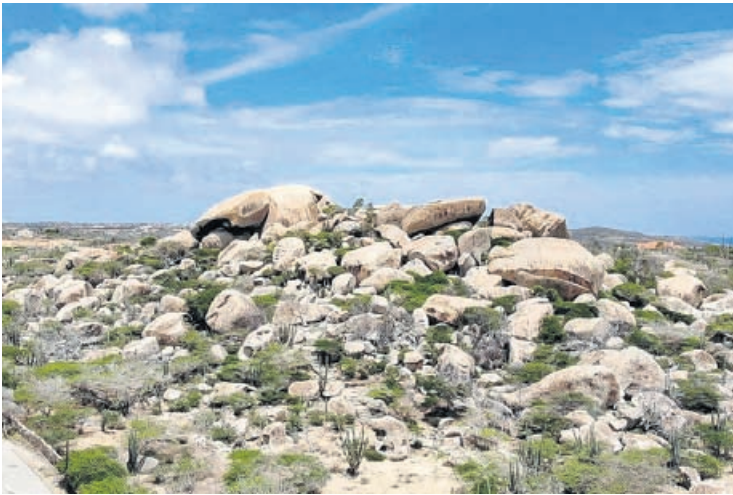
'high point of view' and the neighborhood received this name from the Hill.

In the surrounding areas, Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was

inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV. □



## Birds of Aruba



**ORANJESTAD —** On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and



descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.

### The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

### Canadian in the house

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm.



Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

### Cabochon

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory.

English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje). Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 41 Homes for

1 Crow  
cries

5 Gives off

10 Tennis  
legend  
Arthur

11 New York  
area east  
of SoHo

13 LummoX

14 Game fish

15 Bony fish

17 Hosp.  
sections

18 Foes

19 Court  
concern

20 USN rank

21 Wizard

22 Get to  
one's feet

25 Beer  
choice

26 Milk buy

27 Slump

28 Finish

29 Leafy  
green

33 Pi follower

34 Voracious  
fish

35 Sport fish

37 Work hard

38 Painter's  
motion

39 Writer  
Ferber

40 Fills  
completely

**DOWN**

1 Secret  
supply

2 Narnia  
lion

3 Com-  
plete

4 River  
bottom

5 Follows as  
a result

6 Castle  
surround-  
ers

7 Ailing  
in slang

8 Period  
from

cause to  
effect

9 Attic

use

12 Solution

16 Tie up

21 Tycoons

22 Male

gametes

23 Gls'

helmets,

in slang

24 Neighbor

of Spain

25 Den

27 Back-

bones

29 Director

Lee

30 Battery

end

31 Good

dishes

32 NFL

pioneer

George

36 Whole

bunch

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-25

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

EYGLJPXLHF LE XWF CDJQ

DTDSFJLJP. XWF HDGUW TLJQE

DGF XWF HIGJLJP BDTJ.

— CFTLE PGLVVDGQ

**Cryptoquote:** OUR LIFE IS MARCH  
WEATHER, SAVAGE AND SERENE IN ONE HOUR.

— RALPH WALDO EMERSON



## Cruise ship Schedule: March 24 - 30 2025

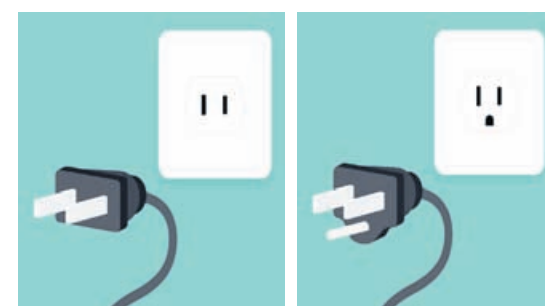
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH		
MON	24	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	18.00	C	1	
TUE	25	MARELLA DISCOVERY	08.00	20.00	C	1	
WED	26	AMERA	08.00	23.00	C	1	
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	I	1	
FRI	28	REGAL PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1	
SAT	29	STAR CLIPPER	10.00	19.00	C	1	
SUN	30	OCEANIA VISTA	10.00	20.00	C	1	

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

### Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



### Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



### Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



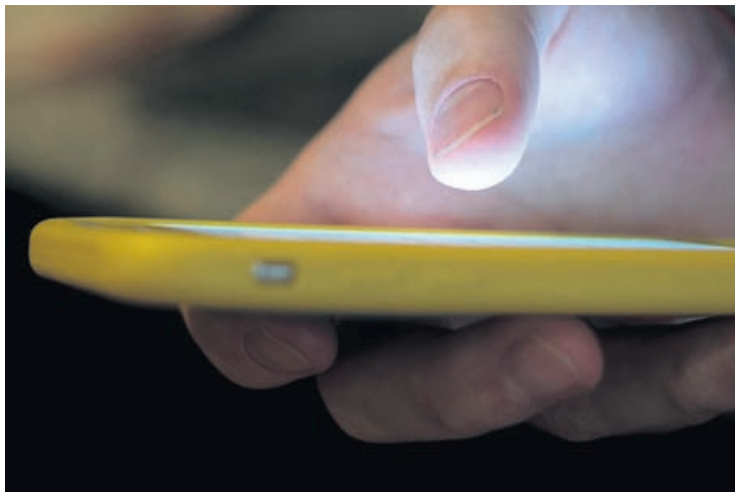
### Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.





# Finding health advice on social media is easier than knowing which claims to trust



A man uses a cell phone in New Orleans on Aug. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

By HALELUYA HADERO  
Associated Press

In the corners of social media dominated by wellness content, influencers recommend an assortment of treatments and products to support weight loss, fight exhaustion or promote other desired health outcomes. Some of the endorsed approaches may be helpful. Many play into fads with scant evidence to back up enthusiasts' claims, medical experts say.

Some influencers encourage their followers to avoid specific food items, such as seed oils, while others advocate going all in on certain foods, such as the meat-heavy carnivore diet. There are video pitches for berberine, a chemical compound that's been touted online as "nature's Ozempic," and for non-medical IV vitamin therapy, which businesses popularly known as drip bars

market as cures for hangovers or fatigue.

To be sure, alternative health practices and cures that lacked the medical establishment's backing were a part of popular culture long before the internet age. But the plethora of advice shared online has both prompted calls for safeguards and found a measure of mainstream acceptance.

The new U.S. health secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., had his Instagram account suspended in 2021 for posting misinformation about vaccine safety and COVID-19, but many of the ideas he champions have a widespread following. Critics of Dr. Mehmet Oz accused him of sometimes making misleading assertions on the talk show he used to host; Oz now is President Donald Trump's nominee to lead the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services.

A Netflix series released last month explored the story of Belle Gibson, a popular Australian wellness influencer who amassed a following talking about curing her terminal brain cancer with a healthy lifestyle and alternative medicine. In 2015, Gibson admitted to lying about having a cancer diagnosis. Australia's federal court later fined her for failing to donate money she said would go to charity through sales of her cookbook and app.

With personal wellness remaining a hot topic, here are some tips health experts have for evaluating the material you see online:

Be cautious when an influencer promotes products. Most influencers have or want business relationships with

companies that allow them to earn income by promoting products. The arrangements don't necessarily mean content creators don't believe in what they're marketing, but they do have a vested interest in publicizing products that may or may not work. Creators can get paid for pictures or videos that hype up a product and also earn commissions on sales through features such as affiliate links. □

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1 Bed Ocean View \$17,000

## GOLD SEASON

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Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel. 524 8833

## PHARMACY ON DUTY

### Oranjestad:

Eagle: Tel. 587 9011

### San Nicolas:

Centro Medico: Tel. 584 5794

## OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

## EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

## TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

## TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

## AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank  
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FAVI- Visually Impaired  
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Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952  
Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989  
Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400  
Centre for Diabetes  
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**Downtown**



# Lindsey Vonn takes 2nd in the final World Cup race of her comeback season, Lara Gut-Behrami wins

By PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

SUN VALLEY, Idaho (AP) —

Lindsey Vonn's return to the podium — six years since stepping away from ski racing, 11 months since her partial knee replacement, four months since announcing her return — hit her hard in the finish area.

Struggling to catch her breath, but still managing the energy to raise her ski poles in celebration, the tears fell. They were for joy and relief that she could even make it back to the World Cup circuit. They were for the satisfaction of proving all her doubters wrong. They were, she explained, for showing "this adventure that I set myself on is worth something."

Vonn concluded her comeback season at age 40 with a second-place finish in a World Cup super-G race Sunday that was won by Swiss standout Lara Gut-Behrami. Vonn became the oldest female Alpine ski racer to step on the podium of a World Cup race — by six years. "It was (expletive) hard," Vonn said. "This is not easy what I'm doing. It just felt really good to say I did it. That I can still do it."

Vonn found her vintage form while flying down the twisting and steep Challenger course at World Cup finals. The 82-time World Cup winner — along with three-time Olympic medalist —



Second place finisher United States' Lindsey Vonn reacts during a medal ceremony for women's super-G at the World Cup Finals, Sunday, March 23, 2025, in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Associated Press

glanced at the scoreboard and soaked in the roar of the large crowd.

It's a moment she will cherish. "Age is just a number," Vonn said. "If you feel good and you're mentally still driven and you work hard, you can achieve anything you set your mind to."

She was motivated by the doubters, too — those who criticized her making a return. "Sometimes the negative voices, they drive me more than the positive ones," Vonn said. "I use all that as fuel. It propelled me through some tough times this year. I knew that I could do it."

"When I crossed the finish line,

there's a lot of relief to be where I know I can be and to silence so many negative voices that have just been surrounding me, it feels like, all season. It was just a nice exclamation point to put on the season."

This was Vonn's first World Cup podium spot since March 15, 2018, when she finished third in a super-G in Are, Sweden. A year later in Are, she earned downhill bronze at the world championships before calling it a career due to her knee.

Vonn received a titanium knee last April and was feeling so good that she announced in November her

plans for a return.

"I just continue to prove that anything is possible," Vonn said. "I've been knocked down so many times in my life personally, physically, mentally, beat down and I always pick myself back up. It's not always easy."

"It's actually really (expletive) hard work. But that's what it takes, putting one foot in front of the other and getting through the hard days. When you keep putting one foot in front of the other, it leads you to a place like today." Before the race, her father, Alan Kildow, took her by the arm and just said, "fearless." She listened.

"Of all the races, of all the courses she's been on, this one really suits her," Kildow said of the redesigned Sun Valley course. "A very clean, technically sound run could go a long run. She skied it like she had to."

It was Vonn's 138th career World Cup podium in her 408th World Cup start. She is within one of tying the most starts by a female Alpine racer, a mark held by Renate Goetschl of Austria. One skier not surprised by Vonn's success is 34-year-old Italian racer Federica Brignone. "She's Lindsey Vonn," said Brignone, who officially clinched the downhill discipline Saturday after the race was canceled, along with the the overall crown. "She's not somebody coming back from another injury. She has qualities and she's an amazing champion. Today, she put all the pieces (together) and did an amazing race."

Gut-Behrami finished in a time of 1 minute, 12.35 seconds — edging Vonn by 1.29 seconds — to earn the season-long super-G crystal globe by overtaking Brignone. Gut-Behrami trailed by five points heading into Sunday's race. Gut-Behrami found plenty of speed and took some calculated risks to glide through the course. Brignone finished third, 1.33 seconds behind Gut-Behrami. □

# Cavaliers snap 4-game skid with 120-91 victory over Jazz



Cleveland Cavaliers forward De'Andre Hunter (12) blocks a shot by Cleveland Cavaliers center Tristan Thompson (13) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 23, 2025, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

By JOHN COON

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Jarrett Allen scored 18 points and Donovan Mitchell added 16, helping Cleveland snap a four-game losing streak with a 120-91 victory over the Utah Jazz on Sunday.

Evan Mobley had 11 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks to help the Cavaliers get back in the win column. Six players scored in double figures for Cleveland.

Kyle Filipowski led Utah with 18 points and 13 rebounds. Walker Kessler added 13 rebounds and three blocks. The Jazz rallied from an early 12-point deficit and took a

36-34 lead on Collin Sexton's layup midway through the second quarter. Cleveland went ahead for good after taking a 44-43 lead on Mitchell's pull-up jumper with 2:04 left before halftime.

The Cavaliers held Utah without a point for 6½ minutes and pulled away behind a 15-0 run to open the third quarter. Allen bookended the run with a pair of baskets, his second one giving Cleveland a 66-45 lead five minutes into the second half.

**Takeaways**

Cavaliers: Cleveland exploited Utah's poor transition defense, outscoring the Jazz 22-9 in fast-break points.

Jazz: Utah struggled to take

care of the ball again, committing 18 turnovers and giving up 25 points off them.

**Key moment**

After Utah took its final lead at 43-42 on Filipowski's reverse layup, Mitchell and Garland combined for three baskets in the final two minutes before halftime to set the stage for Cleveland's decisive third quarter run.

**Key stat**

Cleveland outscored Utah 60-30 in the paint.

**Up next**

Both teams are back in action Tuesday. Cleveland wraps up its five-game road swing at Portland, while Utah hosts Memphis. □



## Viktor Hovland finds a swing that works and rallies to beat Justin Thomas at Innisbrook

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP) — Viktor Hovland found a swing that worked down the tough closing stretch at Innisbrook on Sunday, making three late birdies to rally past Justin Thomas with a 4-under 67 for a one-shot victory in the Valspar Championship. Hovland has changed coaches five times since he last won at East Lake to capture the FedEx Cup in 2023. He wasn't entirely sure where his shots were going. Frustration was as great as ever when he arrived at Innisbrook thinking he had no chance of winning.

"I honestly did not believe I could do it this week," he said.

It looked bleak even after Hovland and Thomas finally separated from the pack during a final round so tight that nine players had at least a share of the lead at some point.

Hovland was three shots behind Thomas when he holed a 12-foot birdie putt on the par-5 14th to start his amazing run. He hit 7-iron at a tucked pin on the 16th hole — the toughest hole on the Copperhead course — to 5 feet for birdie that tied him for the lead.

And then he took dead aim to a back pin on the par-3 17th to 12 feet for birdie, which turned into a two-shot cushion when Thomas faltered late.

Thomas made it a little easier on Hovland. He made four birdies in a five-hole stretch on the back nine and was ahead by three when he walked off the 15th green. But he chose driver on the 16th and hit that into the trees, leaving him no choice but to chip out to the fairway. Thomas had to get up-and-down from a bunker to escape with bogey.

Hovland caught him with his birdie on the 16th, and Thomas was in trouble on the 18th with a drive into deep rough on the left that led to bogey. He was 7 under through 15 holes but had to settle for a 66.

Hovland played it safe on the 18th with a two-shot lead, and his bogey only determined the final margin. He finished at 11-under 273

for his seventh career victory that moves him back into the top 10 in the world.

This one he might not have seen coming.

Hovland spoke openly about the frustrations of his supreme ball-striking becoming a liability. He missed three straight cuts coming into the Valspar Championship, including an 80 in the first round of The Players Championship a week ago. Hovland had not made a 36-hole cut against a full field since the Scottish Open last summer.

So, what happened?

"I've got no idea," he said with a laugh when his victory was secure.

Jacob Bridgeman, who started with a three-way share of the lead, needed to hole out from the fairway on the

18th to force a playoff. He wound up with a par and finished third.

"I hit a lot of disgusting shots, but they happened to go where I looked," Hovland said. "Somehow I was able to hit the good shots I can a lot more often."

There were only great shots down the stretch. Hovland chose to lay up on the 14th — he went for the green in two on Saturday and made bogey — and had to rely on a 12-foot, slippery birdie putt to have any chance. That was a big one to make it.

The pin on the 16th was back right, protected in front and to the right by a bunker, and his shot never left the flag. And then came the shot and birdie putt on the 17th.

Thomas was left to wonder



Viktor Hovland, of Norway, reacts as he holds the trophy after winning the Valspar Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 23, 2025, at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor, Fla.

Associated Press

what went wrong. His always hits driver on the 16th and figured the worse he could make was 5. He quickly realized Hovland did plenty of good.

"I've had plenty of chances this season, but nothing quite like that," said Thomas, whose last victory was the 2022 PGA Championship at Southern Hills. □



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**Palm Beach –** When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

### Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic

French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.



### Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

### Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

### Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.

### Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



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For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website **watersedge-aruba.com**

